

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Occupational Safety and Health
Washington, D.C. 20210



OCT 14 2010

Mr. Patrick Howey
Executive Director
National Association of Tower Erectors
8 Second Street, South East
Watertown, South Dakota 57201-3624

Dear Mr. Howey:

Thank you for your recent communication regarding the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Strategic Partnership Program (OSPP). I appreciate your sharing information about the National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE) successful experience with our previous partnership and the value it brought to improve the safety and health of the workers and managers within your industry.

Since 1998 OSHA has partnered with employers, workers, professional or trade associations, labor organizations, and/or other interested stakeholders. These formalized unique partnerships have encouraged, assisted, and recognized partner's efforts to eliminate serious hazards and achieve model workplace safety and health practices.

OSHA agrees with your assessment of our previous accomplishments. The OSHA and NATE OSHA Strategic Partnership experienced successes including the reduction of fatal tower incidents at participating employers' worksites and the development of best practices which were incorporated into industry specific safety and health training.

You identified OSHA's recent OSPP policy changes as the primary reason for NATE's decision not to sign a new Strategic Partnership agreement. I believe the recent policy changes would enhance the OSPP and move OSHA and industry much closer to ensuring the protection of workers.

Thank you for your commitment to worker safety and health, and your offer to collaborate with OSHA on other issues which impact your industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Michaels".

David Michaels, PhD, MPH